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SNAPSHOT

USAID PRO-INTEGRIDAD CONTRIBUTION GIVES GREATER SPEED TO ORAL TRIALS



Photo: Pro-Integridad

Dr. José Chumbe, Judge of the Third Unipersonal Criminal Court of Maynas, during a training workshop on "Guidelines for hearings programming and management at the trial stage"

"I have used the guidelines since the moment when the Pro-Integridad Project brought the proposal to Iquitos."

"The training has allowed us to learn closely about the programming of hearings in other courts, the times and the improvements that we can replicate in our case"

*Dr. José Chumbe
Judge of the Third Unipersonal Court of
Maynas*

The new Criminal Procedure Code has been implemented progressively in Peru since 2006. Under the new criminal procedure, the trial occupies the central place. It is then that the elements of celerity, orality, and publicity necessary for judgment materialize. In practice however, trials are excessively delayed because of the widespread practice of splitting the hearing into multiple sessions and ineffective management by the judges. As a result, the judiciary prioritized improving procedures for the programming and management of the hearings during the trial stage so as to achieve greater speed and increase the number of cases resolved.

In response to and in support of this need, USAID Pro-Integridad Project provided technical assistance to the Judiciary to develop "Guidelines for programming and management of hearings in the trial stage with the Criminal Procedure Code", which were approved by the Judicial Branch on February 6, 2015, that addresses the planning and time control of the procedural steps that make up the hearing sessions.

USAID Pro-Integridad has successfully completed training judges and court personnel on these guidelines in the judicial districts of Loreto and San Martín. Both districts have experienced favorable impact. An example of this is the experience in the Superior Court of Loreto, where Dr. José Chumbe, Judge of the Third Unipersonal Criminal Court of Maynas, has improved his work and concludes a greater number of oral trials in less time. With the guidelines, he now performs up to eight hearings in one day, four of which conclude on the same day. Prior to this, he would conduct four or five hearings daily at the most and they usually would have to resume in subsequent sessions.

USAID Pro-Integridad will continue its training on these Guidelines in Amazonas and Lima. It is expected that the positive impact experienced will lead the Judiciary to replicate training at the national level, allowing more judges to utilize these procedures, enabling them to carry out their work quicker and with greater efficiency, and at the same time raising the number of cases resolved.

Telling Our Story

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